

1 Samuel 24 David Confronts Saul

I. Intro

When your life is in chaos because someone wrongs you, how do you respond?
How do you respond when someone says something that is not true about you? How do you respond when someone treats you unjustly? How do you respond when someone hurts you?

Our culture has some catchy sayings about situations like this:

Revenge is a dish best served cold.

The best revenge is massive success. – Sinatra

The best revenge is just moving on and getting over it. Don't give someone the satisfaction of watching you suffer. Keep Calm and let Karma finish it.

How we respond in situations like this will say much about our hearts and our motivations.

And to be more bold, for those of you who have put your faith in Christ, has your response to being wronged changed since you came to know Jesus?

Today we will discover that:

In the chaos of being wronged, life comes when we speak with a redemptive voice.

Here's what we are going to do today...

First, let's look at the story of David's life, and process how David responds to being wronged.

Then let's ask how should we respond to wrongs.

So, how did David respond to wrongs, how should we respond to wrongs.

II. David's response to being wronged.

Let me give you some background to the moment we come to in David's life.

David is anointed King by Samuel and then kills Goliath. And the narrator of the life of David has established this is how God is going to work.

But then we see the tide take a turn. God doesn't appoint David as King, because Saul is the King. And for the next 8 chapters of the book of Samuel, the story is about a bitter-root and a selfish King.

1 Samuel 18:7-9

1 Samuel 19:2, 11

1 Samuel 20:30-31

1 Samuel 23:8

1 Samuel 23:26-28

This brings us to our story today.

Saul again is on the pursuit of David. And he is close. So close that Saul ends up in the very location where David is, and so Saul enters a cave to relieve himself and David and his men are in the back of the cave.

I Samuel 24:1-4a.

Pause the game. What do you do? What would you do in this moment?

You have been told you will be king, you have been falsely accused, you have been hunted and threatened, many priests and their families have been killed because of you, and your friends quote God the Father and declare, this is the moment! This is the moment to make everything right. Get him!

What do you do?

I would venture to say that there isn't anyone in this room that has been chased, attacked, and been in hiding for years. But...

Let me explain some situations that perhaps you have been in:

Some of you have a difficult work environment. You have a boss or employee who doesn't respect you, and not only that, they speak poorly of you. They give you unfair and poor reviews. It seems like every day it's torture and unfair. **And finally a day comes, where you catch that person in an error. You have an opportunity to right all the wrong's that have been committed against you. What do you do?**

Some of you have been in a difficult marriage. Your spouse or ex is constantly criticizing you and exposing your brokenness. They are talking poorly about you to your kids and take every opportunity to belittle you in front of them. They manipulate your family and have created lots of suspicion about you. **And finally a day comes, where you catch that person in an error. You have an opportunity to right all the wrong's that have been committed against you. What do you do?**

Some of you have been hurt by someone in the church. Someone in this very room portrayed a circumstance about you unfairly. They have not allowed you to explain and spreading things about you that are hurtful and painful. It seems like everyone has their ear. **And finally a day comes, where you catch that person in an error. You have an opportunity to right all the wrong's that have been committed against you. What do you do?**

There are probably two extremes that we would have to those situations: We would either kill him, or pretend like nothing bad happened.

Some of us when we are wronged, we don't know what to do and we remain silent. In essence we lose our voice. And we think things like the saying, let Karma handle it.

Others of us, we respond: I have to hurt you as bad as you have hurt me. There is a line of kindness and when it gets crossed we wrong the person back. We want to hurt them the way we feel hurt.

What does David do? **1 Samuel 24:4b-7**

We come now to the longest speech of David in scripture. So how does David respond...
1 Samuel 24:8-15

We see here David not being silent, but actually responding to Saul with a redemptive voice. A voice that speaks truth and grace. A voice that speaks blessing and not cursing. A voice that doesn't cut off relationship but actually invites relationship.

Friends, when you are in the chaos of being wronged, my invitation and challenge to all of us today is to speak with a redemptive voice. And I would like to look at three practical ways we can do that.

III. How should we respond to being wronged?

We should speak with a redemptive voice. And I think there are things we can learn from this encounter about that.

1. Live in God's greater story.

"All of life is a story," -Madeline L'Engle

Have you thought about your life this way, as a story?

It will have a huge impact on how you process being wronged.

Life has drama, it has adventure, risk, evil, betrayal, and glory.

Whether you have realized it or not, God designed you to understand life this way. The problem is most of us look at life as if we are the center of the story. And what happens if that is the case? When we are wronged we need to take matters into our own hands and fix them. We need to defend ourselves.

I was struck with how David responds.

1 Samuel 24:10

He sees Saul as God's anointed. He is grasping that there is a greater story going on here. And that perspective is foundational to how David responds.

He doesn't respond with revenge and death and he doesn't respond with silence and fear.

David responds by speaking with a redemptive voice.

He speaks to Saul about the greater story that they are living in.

There is another aspect to speaking with a redemptive voice...

2. Remind yourself of how God responded to you when you wronged Him.

1 Samuel 24:12

David reminds himself and Saul that God is the one who avenges.

Romans 12:17-19 makes it very clear and practical:

17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

So how do we cultivate a heart that doesn't respond with vengeance?

I think the best way to illustrate this is by remind us of a parable that Jesus tells in Matthew 18:23-35.

He tells the story of a man who owed a tremendous debt. A debt he could never repay to the King. And the king, instead of punishing the man, forgives his debt. Now, in a somewhat comical way, Jesus tells how that forgiven man sees a man on the street who owes him a tiny debt, and the forgiven man responds with anger and revenge towards the man. And so the King summons the forgiven man, and Jesus ends the parable this way:

Matthew 18:32-35

Which person are you? Are you the one who seeks revenge on those who have wronged you? Or are you the servant who has been so overwhelmed by your forgiven debt that you speak redemptively to those who wrong you?

There is a third piece...

3. Surround yourself with people who believe that silence or getting even will bring death rather than life in chaos.

1 Samuel 24:4, 9

Both David and Saul had men around them that were giving them bad counsel.

Do you have people in your life that are trying to learn how to speak redemptively in situations?

It is easy to find people who will join you in spewing bitterness and hatred toward someone who has wronged you. But there is for sure a warning here...

I am reminded of how I want people in my life that won't push me towards revenge and evil towards others or people who won't let me hide. Life is complicated and difficult... every situation calls for wisdom, and having people around me that will help me process will lead to life.

I'd like to make add one note of importance here... David's response moves Saul. There was a strange reversal of heart where Saul was blessing the one he was cursing (vs. 19). Saul actually puts into words what he fears about David being King.

But speaking redemptively does not promise the person will change. Saul was moved, but it will only take two more chapters before he starts chasing David again.

The promise for us today is that life won't come because of situational change, life comes as we speak with a redemptive voice.

IV. Conclusion

In the chaos of being wronged, life comes when we speak with a redemptive voice.

Church, let's plant a new generation. Let's turn the tide on our revenge culture. Instead of living in a self-centered story, let's live in a greater story. Instead of trying to revenge every wrong, let's remind ourselves of how God responded to our wrongs. Instead of surrounding ourselves with people who would give us a license to curse, let's surround ourselves with people who encourage us to speak redemptively. Friends... let's show the world where true life is...

V. Communion

As the worship team comes out, I want to invite you to respond today at the table of communion. Communion is a meal that Jesus taught His followers to practice the night before He died.

In just a moment, I would invite you to come to one of the tables around the round, and take this crackers and dip it in the juice. You see this cracker and this juice, in and of themselves, are just a cracker and juice. But for us, they point to something, they remind us of something.

They remind us that although God could have taken his vengeance out on you, He chose to take it out on His son. So that you could have life.

And so the invitation to this table is not one of shame and guilt, it's the invitation to relationship. So this morning, as you come, I would remind you, this is the taste of life.